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GLANCE AT ANTIQUITY

This new series is to honor and make available to the Diplomacy world, copies of first issues of our pioneer Dippy 'zines. I know I was curious to see what they looked like and I'll bet you are, too.

This issue, we are featuring Ruritania, the second Diplomacy zine ever published. I was fortunate enough to borrow the first issue of it for copying from Rod Walker while I was at DIPCON IV. It is also quite a coincidence that during this week eight years ago, Ruritania was published for the first time. Although it has long since been defunct, Ruritania is still quite a notable and historic zine after making its first appearance a scant four months after Craustark #1.

Ruritania was published by Dave McDaniel of the Los Angeles Science Fiction Society for its first 26 issues. It was then taken over by John Boardman, where its game, 1963E, was carried to completion in issue #40. Dr. Boardman still has a few originals left of the later Ruritanias for anyone that is interested. They should prove to be real collector's items.

The game 1963E was notable in itself. It was the only postal game that our founder, Allan Calhamer, ever played in and was also one of the very few that John Boardman played in. In addition, it was the longest game ever played in the early years. A very interesting summary of the game was published by Dr. Boardman in Craustark #87 of 3 April 1966 (copies of which are still available from him) and is summarized below:

1963E: This second postal Diplomacy game was organized by Dave McDaniel, and included many of McDaniel's fellow Angelenos and members of the Los Angeles Science Fiction Society. The Russian player entered under the name of "Adhemar Grauhugel," but it soon became common knowledge that he was actually Bruce Pelz - husband of Austro-Hungarian player Dian Pelz. ((At the beginning of the game, Dian (Girard) was Bruce's fiancée. Sneaky, eh?!)) The Pelzes cooperated with Diplomacy inventor Allan Calhamer, playing Germany, in a very effective Drei-kaiserbund. Weak play by Tom Bulmer as Italy, and lack of coordination among the other players generally, led to the triumph of the Dreikaiserbund. By 1905 Calhamer concluded that he would be the next victim of the Family Compact, and anticipated this development by attacking the Pelz forces. An ill-timed double-cross of his sole remaining ally, Jack Root's France, started the German Kaiser downhill, as France promptly joined the combine against him.

In 1910, McDaniel ceased publication of Ruritania, and it passed to my management. Calhamer and Root also decided to withdraw, and their countries passed to Roland Tzudiker and John McCallum respectively. These two, in alliance, fought a well-played resistance against the Pelzes until Tzudiker was called up by the Air Force in 1916. (The game year 1916, of course.) McCallum, eliminated as France, carried on as Germany for two more years.

The failure of Austria-Hungary (Dian Pelz) to build a unit to which it was entitled at the end of 1917 meant that at the end of 1918 only 33 units were on the board. Of these, Russia (Bruce Pelz), had a majority, and hence was declared the winner. ((In the ensuing years, there has been much speculation as to whether Dian threw the game to Bruce. Will we ever know?!))

AND NOW, RURITANIA!

RURITANIA

#1

Fall 1900

13 Sept '63

HOSTILITIES THREATEN ALL ACROSS CONTINENT

CENTURY OPENS WITH FEAR OF WAR

Munitions Manufacturers Begin New Year of Celebration

The Centennial celebrations all across Europe have scarcely died away, and everywhere citizens are beginning to look about them to appraise the political situation. As the last bits of confetti settle into the wastebaskets of a continent, the popping of champagne corks threatens to be soon replaced with the thunder of cannon. Incidents on the borders and in the embassies have been increasing international tensions and threats are following toasts among the sovereigns in power from London to Moscow. International experts on our staff are predicting open warfare within the next year.

In preparation for the imminent hostilities, we are establishing communications with the military and governmental forces of the seven major powers. It will be the policy of this paper to keep our readers constantly informed of every action of all the European powers in the coming conflict -- if it happens in Europe, you will read it first in RURITANIA, unless you wrote it yourself.

We promise first publication of all treaties and agreements made public, with full text of every statement made by military or civil sources; we also guarantee the security of unofficial statements and uncleared materials discovered by our correspondents. We will keep our subscribers informed of the full details of every military action made on the Continent and in the seas about her, in the Near East and North Africa.

All heads of state and military personnell, by virtue of their need for such comprehensive and trustworthy coverage of the diplo-military situation, are guaranteed ten-year subscriptions upon their entry into conflict. At the end of this period we will re-evaluate our financial condition, and a slight assessment may be made of member nations. Defeated nations may, if they wish, continue to receive RURITANIA free of charge for the duration of any conflict in the area of Europe. Non-combatants may subscribe for one American dollar for a subjective time of five years. Combatants will receive their copies by the fastest practical route -- by air in most cases, by personal messenger in others.

RURITANIA

published bi-weekly for the second game of

--Postal Diplomacy--

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Players free

Others (10 issues)(first class) \$1.00

..... (air mail) \$1.50

-oOo-

Published by: Dave McDaniel

1503 Rollin Street

South Pasadena, Calif.

Beginning with the next issue, to be dated "Spring 1901", the Seven Powers will join conflict. Guiding the nations will be: John Boardman, founder of Postal Diplomacy; Allan Calhammer, Inventor of the Game Itself; Tom Bulmer and Fred Lerner, members of the East Paterson New Jersey Diplomacy Club; Dian Girard, sexy brunette and noted amateur spy; Adhemar Grauhugel, mysterious figure hiding in shadow of grey hills; and Jock Root, international playboy.

The announced deadline for this second game of Postal Diplomacy was, you may recall, September 20th. However, since a full board of players has already come to me in their various ways, most in person at the 21st Annual World Science Fiction Convention in Washington D.C. a couple of weeks ago, I feel the time is more than ripe to pull the lanyard, drop the flag, open the gate, and in sundry other traditional ways open The Game.

Reading clockwise about the board, our players are as follows:

ENGLAND: Fred Lerner, 152-B Donor Ave, East Paterson, N.J. (07407)
[Ruler: Edward VII. Foreign Office: Sir Edward Hertlet]

GERMANY: Ailan B. Calhammer, Wyman Road, Billerica, Massachusetts
[Ruler: William II. Foreign Minister: Prince von Bülow,
directed by Frederick von Holstein]

RUSSIA: Adhemar Grauhugel, 11173 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles, Calif (90024)
[Ruler: Nicholas II.]

TURKEY: John Boardman, Box 22, New York 33, New York (10033)
[Ruler: Abdul-Hamid.]

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Dian Girard, 4620 Twining St, Los Angeles, Calif (90032)
[Ruler: Franz Joseph. Minister-President: Ernst von Körber]

ITALY: Tom Bulmer, 138 Lincoln Ave, East Paterson, N.J. (07407)
[Ruler: Victor Emmanuel III. Foreign Minister: Prinetti.]

FRANCE: Jock Root, 206 East 25th St, New York 10, New York (10010)
[Premier: Delcasse.]

A certain amount of information will be supplied regarding changes in administration in actual history. Revolutions will be considered as having no effect on the military, ridiculous as that may seem.

Now, unless your name is listed above, or unless you are William Christian, who already paid in a dollar, but too late for a seat at the table, and has therefore subscribed instead, you are reading a sample copy of RURITANIA. If you are interested in following a divergent line of European history, if you like games, if you have a dollar you don't really need, let me put you down for a subscription.

NOTA BENE: There is a three-week period to enable early alliances to be formed. Deadline for the first moves in this game is: 4 October 1963. All moves must be in my hands by midnight on that date. FYI: My telephone is 213-MU2-2502. I will not accept collect calls. May I recommend the 6¢ air postcard?

RURITANIA #1-FORNEY PUB
Dave McDaniel #52
1503 Rollin Street
South Pasadena, Calif
[Krishnak House]
Press

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

FIRST CLASS